



International Multicultural Institute 3rd Annual Celebration at Roxbury Community College on September 20, 2011- Photo by James Lambert

Is It Worth Buying the iPhone?

By **Angela Noesi**
Gazette Staff Reporter



The iPhone is the newest gadget we call phones. I have had the pleasure to use this iPhone 4 from a friend. I wanted to test the phone to see if I would be interested in buying the iPhone 4 or the newest one the iPhone 5 and also the service from AT&T.

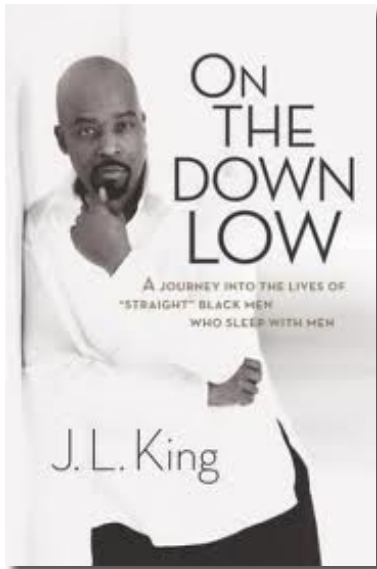
When using the phone I had reception in busiest places. I definitely had reception in my home, which is a major plus for me. As far as the iPhone's functions, my friend's phone had an app for everything. Online banking is now accessible through an app (short for application) on your iPhone. You can do transfers back and forth, check your balances, and deposit checks by taking a picture of the check. With iPhone technology, I don't even have to leave my home and wait in a long line at the bank. That's amazing!

AT&T is the only cellular wireless company that offers unused minutes to rollover. This helps build more minutes to your original plan. At this point

you're paying for the monthly-unlimited plan for \$69.99. Plus we need to add the \$25.00 data plan. For most Smartphones, it is needed because it comes with the ability to stay in touch with the web including picture texting and downloading apps to make the phone more entertaining.

At this point we know it can be costly. So if it fits in your budget, then it would be the perfect phone, excuse me the perfect iPhone, for you or in this case for me. Make sure you can fit the cell phone plan and the cost of the iPhone into your budget and still have enough to pay your other monthly bills.

On The Down Low: Review



By **Octavia Draughn**
Gazette Staff Reporter

On the Down Low: A Journey into the Lives of 'Straight' Black Men Who Sleep with Men is a book by J.L. King, an activist who works to prevent HIV and other STDs, especially among African-Americans. He decided to speak up about a certain activity that goes on among Black males that most of the world had no idea about. He enlightens people about how "regular" men, men who have relationships with women, also have sex with men.

This lifestyle is referred to as being on the "down low" or "DL". He shares his journey of how he had been on the DL for 20 years. He shared basically everything about himself, how he was married and had children, but was attracted to men. Ultimately, his attraction to men led to his desire of and pursuit to sleep with men. His life was torn when his wife learned of his sexual activity with men. After it all, he felt the urge to tell his story and tell the truth behind the

mystery of why heterosexual women in monogamous relationships were contracting HIV in large numbers.

King's ultimate goal for this book was to help women understand why they were contracting HIV and other STDs from their men. He urges men who are on the DL to be up front and honest with the people they share their body with. The main focus was for both men and women to be more open about their sex lives and find out about their partners' sexual past and preferences to help make better decisions when sharing their bodies with others. King shares numerous incidents, some personal and others from stories that were shared with him where men had raw, unprotected sex with both men and women. This careless behavior has caused people's lives, those who have acquired HIV and later suffered from AIDS.

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A Nightmare Drive in Boston

By **Natasha Banks**
Gazette Staff Reporter

Boston streets are full of potholes. A nice Sunday drive in Boston has been a nightmare for many residents. According to the City of Boston, in a typical year city workers fill 19,000 potholes during the late winter and spring. City officials explain that the potholes are created when water seeps into the pavement through the cracks in the road, which cause the pavement to deteriorate. The City of Boston is especially vulnerable to potholes due primarily to the city's coastal location. During the winter and early spring, the cold wet climate also contributes to creating potholes.

According to the City of Boston, most potholes are repaired by two special mixtures: cold mix (an asphalt mixture for winter season) or a hot mix (an asphalt mixture for the spring and summer seasons). The cold mixture temporarily repairs potholes, while the hot mixture is more of a permanent fix.

It isn't much of a surprise that GMAC Insurance International Drivers test results ranked Massachusetts drivers the sixth worst drivers in the nation. However, the fact is that Massachusetts drivers are driving through streets that now look like obstacle courses. During the winter months, now known as pothole season, Massachusetts drivers

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Cost of Living Increase Causes Boost in Violence

By **Natasha Banks**
Gazette Staff Reporter

Within the past year, the cost of living has risen 3.5%. Just a year ago, gas prices at the pump were about \$1.50 less each gallon. According to a CNN report, food prices have been on a steady rise; the price of meat has risen by 3.5%, and the price of dairy has also risen by 5.5%. On the other hand, many Americans face unemployment. As a result, they turn to unlawful ways of mak-

ing money such as prostitution, selling drugs, robbing, stealing, and sometimes even committing murder.

Over the past year, violence in Massachusetts has ascended. Before, many people lived under the impression that violence only occurred in particular neighborhoods that are controlled by gangs. However, BPD News statistics show that an average person's chance of becoming a victim to a violent crime in Boston is 1 in 85. A new review by a Police Officers Research Association

shows that over 100 police agencies nationwide have linked the collapse of the economy with the increase in criminal offenses.

There has also been an increase in dating violence and abuse, predominantly amongst teenagers which many surveys have linked to the troubled economy. Many of the families these teenagers belong to struggle financially. Most of the teenagers surveyed revealed

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Monthly MBTA Passes for RCC Students?

By **Yolanda Cooley**
Gazette Staff Reporter



In the Student Government Association at Roxbury Community College (SGA), there was an ongoing debate whether students should be issued MBTA monthly passes. Some would argue that they should, especially if they were to receive financial aid; and others argue that they should not because it is a personal responsibility.

Charmayne Martin is a student at RCC, and she explained that, "The students that attend this school should be discounted half off on an MBTA Pass. This would help most students to travel back and forth to school." The current monthly rate for a pass is somewhere around \$60. I agree with Ms. Martin that students should receive some type of assistance in their commute to college. Students are expected to be here

every day to engage and partake in all required courses. Such a high expense could be covered as part of their tuition that they receive in financial aid. Most students that attend RCC do receive financial aid, and at the end of the semester they are refunded the left over money back.

Other students do not agree with this type of plan and think that students should be able to carry their own weight and handle their transportation themselves. Taconya Hunter also attends RCC, and she is one of these students. She says, "Students should not receive any assistance for obtaining a MBTA pass because it would be a program that

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These editorials were written for Prof. Rhonda Gray’s Honors class. “Living an Urban Reality” is the title of this theme-based course. The class explores how the natural and built environments of urban settings, primarily in New York and Boston, impact one’s identity as well as inter-personal relationships. The readings reflect a movement from America’s inception into the industrial age to the post civil rights era with student-work providing the lens into the 21st century. The essential question each class will reflect upon is “What opportunities and challenges does an urban setting present to the individual?”

Does Whole Foods Belong in Jamaica Plain?

By **Kristian J. Kuosmanen**
Special to The Gazette

On January 14, 2011, it was announced that Jamaica Plain Latino grocer Hi-Lo would be closing after 47 years of business. Five days later Whole Foods officials announced their plans to open a new store on that site. This announcement drew two very different reactions from members of the community. Many residents are against a Whole Foods moving into Jamaica Plain because they feel a national corporation moving into Jamaica Plain will hurt local Latino grocers. Despite the criticism, Whole Foods moving in will help revitalize Jamaica Plain. It will boost economic growth by a) creating jobs for local residents and b) increasing revenue for Jamaica Plain based food suppliers due to Whole Foods’ history of procuring produce from locally based suppliers.

One way the new Whole Foods store will boost economic growth for Jamaica Plain is by creating jobs. When Stop & Shop opened in Jamaica Plain in 1996, 210 new job positions were created with 60-80% of them being filled by local residents. Most of these new jobs will require little to no formal education meaning that almost all residents will have an opportunity to get employment. In addition to providing a source of income, residents who obtain employment from Whole Foods (which ranked 24 on CNN Money’s 100 Best Companies To Work For list) will also get other benefits the company provides employees such as health care, a 20% discount on all items purchased at Whole Foods, and training programs to help entry level employees potentially get promoted to management and other professional positions within the company.

Another way the new Whole Foods will boost economic growth in Jamaica Plain is by the increased business local food suppliers will get as a result. Whole Foods typically procures most their products from local suppliers. In fact, Whole Foods is already doing business with two Jamaica Plain based suppliers: tofu manufacturer 21st Century Foods and ice cream maker Batch Ice Cream.

Twenty-First Century Foods owner Rudy Canale told The Jamaica Plain Gazette that he has been doing business with Whole Foods since the 1980s and that Whole Foods has spoken to him about selling to more stores in the region. Susie Parrish, co-founder of Batch Ice Cream, stated to the Jamaica

Plain Gazette the Batch Ice Cream is already found in 12 Whole Foods stores. The new Whole Foods store in Jamaica Plain will increase demand for products from both of these companies, and in turn will lead to increased revenue and profit. Both companies can use this increased revenue to increase production of their products by hiring more workers, most likely local residents, and/or by establishing new production facilities. Other Jamaica Plain food suppliers, such as Allandale Farms in JP, can also look to increase their income by selling their products in the new Whole Foods store and eventually other nearby Whole Foods stores.

Whole Foods’ establishing a store in Jamaica Plain will benefit the neighborhood because of the economic opportunities the new store will provide both residents who might seek employment at the new store and local businesses who might look to sell their products at the new store. However, some critics of the new store will point out that a national corporation moving into the area will hurt the local economy by drawing customers away from small Latino grocers already established in the area who might not have the resources to compete (e.g. prices).

These fears are unfounded because Whole Foods caters to a different demographic than local Latino markets – working professionals with higher incomes versus Latino immigrants with lower incomes who will continue to shop at the local markets.

Stop & Shop opened in 1996. Although it is a store more likely to hurt local markets due to their lower prices (than Whole Foods), it has had no negative impact on these smaller grocers who have voiced little concern about the issue, with most of the concern coming from community leaders/activists. I think that Jamaica Plain should welcome the new Whole Foods store and take advantage of the economic opportunities it will provide both residents and local businesses.

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Should We Regulate the Sale of Knives?

By **Amarachi Njoku**
Special to The Gazette

While I truly believe that reducing the amount of violence that occurs due to knife possession is necessary, I don’t think that regulating the sale of knives and requiring a license to sell one will be the best solution. A recent article in Metro by Michael Naughton addresses this particular issue. It gives reasons that support the initiative for regulating the sale of knives. First of all, there is no guarantee that requiring a license to sell knives will reduce the number of criminal activities related to knives. Also, I believe that the stabbings that take place throughout the city cannot be blamed solely on the shops that sell knives.

Let’s take a look at the level of success associated with licensing weapons. There are several laws that require a person selling a weapon, such as a gun, to be licensed. But how has this regulation made the country better? As it turns out, there have actually been increases in gun violence in many cities across the country. According to Citizens for Safety, the Police Executive Research Forum stated that this is because criminals and young

people are able to access guns easily mostly through illegal gun trafficking. In fact, 80% of guns that are used to commit crimes in the country are obtained illegally. Also, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) released information that showed that “1.2% of federally licensed gun dealers supply 57% of the guns used in crime.” While this does not relate specifically to knives, it shows what little change new laws makes. In fact, there is already a law in Boston that prohibits the sale of knives that have blades two inches or longer. So if this process of creating laws is so effective, what’s the need for new rules and regulation? What this says is that requiring the regulation of the sale of knives is not a solution to the violence associated with knives.

What makes these authorities so sure that knives used in these crimes were purchased through the local retailers? The article in Metro seems to target local businesses that sell knives specifically. A quote from a website called Ammoland.com states, “There is no indication that there has been any factual connection made between violence committed with knives in the city and these retailers.” Weapons for stabbing a person can be

found virtually anywhere. Take a look around your kitchen. What do you see?

It doesn’t stop at knives either. There are box cutters around the house, scissors which are easily accessible, and even pens and pencils which, let’s face it, could do some damage. There are many ways that these stabbings could have occurred, so these authorities cannot stop the violence by requiring licenses to sell knives. If one door is closed, many others will be opened.

In the end, these authorities are simply doing their jobs. They are trying to find solutions for the violent stabbings in Boston. I am not against the overall goal we are trying to achieve, but I am against the creation of more laws that people could easily find loop-holes for. If the authorities feel that they must make these requirements, then they cannot honestly expect dramatic changes in the amount of violence that occurs. Whether it is knives or guns or any deadly weapon, a more permanent solution must be found that does not repeat the same unsuccessful patterns we have been following.

Should We Support the Casino Bill?

By **Rafael Calderon**
Special to The Gazette

For some time now, the Massachusetts state legislatures have been debating the Casino Bill that would legalize casino gambling in the state of Massachusetts. The benefits of having established gambling facilities would include the creation of thousands of much needed jobs as well the additional increased revenue for the cities and towns in the surrounding areas.

For years supporters of casinos have fought for the establishment of gambling institutes in Massachusetts and have always been beaten. However, that has all changed now due to the recent passing of the Casino Bill in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Representative Martin J. Walsh of Dorchester said, “I think it’s very close, I’m pretty optimistic that we’re going to see a casino bill made into law in Massachusetts by early fall”.

The bill, originally proposed by House Speaker Robert DeLeo in April 2010, calls for three casino resorts and one slot parlor to be opened. The casinos would pay the state 25 percent tax, with some of that revenue to be used for local aid. While the slot parlor would pay 49 percent tax, 40 percent of that is going to local areas and another 9 percent is going into a horse-development fund. Already one could see where revenue would be going back into local communities. 1.7 billion dollars in revenue is estimated to be made according to DeLeo.

Many areas are already competing for the opportunity to have one of these

three proposed casino resorts to be established in their area such as East Boston, Milford, New Bedford, Holyoke, and Springfield. This is proof that these cities want and need something that will attract more people and money to their area. “It’s revenue that’s needed for the commonwealth. Obviously, cities and towns are struggling. If we can prevent further cuts, I think that’s an accomplishment,” said Rep. Martin Walsh.

A study from the Center for Policy Analysis at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth reported that in the past several years, residents made 7 million visits to casino and slot parlor in the neighboring states. The Casino Bill would ensure that this money being spent elsewhere comes back to the state.


The bill does not just guarantee money for the state and cities, but it also guarantees jobs. Upwards of 15,000 jobs are to be created for the casinos and slot parlor. In a time when jobs are virtually impossible to come by, this is a blessing to those people who are eager for work. When first proposed, the bill called for two casino resorts and up to 750 slot machines to be placed in each of the states four existing race tracks.

Employees at Raynham Greyhound Park said that they are very appreciative of Rep. DeLeo for fighting for their jobs. Not only would the construction of the casino resorts and slot parlors create long-term jobs, it would provide work for thousands of unemployed construction worker statewide of many months. It would also create jobs in new and existing departments of the government like The Massachusetts Gaming



Commission and the Division of Gaming Enforcement within the State’s Attorney’s Office. Also it would create the new Gaming Enforcement Unit for the State Police Department. Union workers are urging for the bill to be passed. Renee Dozier, an electrician, mother of two, and resident of the Jamaica Plain neighborhood of Boston, said “I don’t want any handouts. I just want to work and support my family.”

The passing of the Casino Bill in Massachusetts would be a means of creating jobs and revenue for the state making it very beneficial for the bill to be passed into law. An additional 1.7 billion dollars of revenue would come into the state and provide much needed funds for the local economies. Religious leaders, social workers, and gambling opponents say they are against the state promoting a policy to exploit vulnerable people for their own benefit. In a time when jobs and money are hard to come by, legalized gambling would be beneficial to increase income for the state as well as put a dent, even if it is a small one, in the unemployment rate.



GATEWAY GAZETTE

A publication of staff and students at
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Staff and students are invited to send letters to the editor, news tips, ideas for articles and photos and other information for the Gazette to writingcenter@roxbury.edu. All submissions are subject to editing and run on a space available basis. The opinions expressed in these pages do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

Faculty advisor:
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Hungry Students

By Octavia Draughn
Gazette Staff Reporter

At Roxbury Community College, hundreds of students occupy a campus without a cafeteria. The campus was not always without a cafeteria. It has been understood that the cafeteria was shut down in order to be remodeled and to evaluate the food that was being served to its students. A big controversy was obesity. Roxbury Community College as a whole felt that the food being served contributed to overweight students and students not in good health.

The objective to closing the cafeteria was to focus on providing a variety of foods to students. A well-known fact regarding nutrition is that people who consume food from all five food groups tend to be in better health than those who do not. Consuming the right amount of servings from each group contributes to a person's well balanced diet. How can Roxbury Community College provide this without having a cafeteria at all?

The reopening of the cafeteria has been an anticipated juncture for some time. When it was announced and flyers were passed out to inform students and faculty of the cafeteria reopening there was a sort of relief. However, when the cafeteria had its grand opening, not many people were pleased to find that there hot pizzas had been replaced by vending machines with ready food that needed to be heated. The initial advantage of a vending machine that served breakfast is that it provided free coffee, hot chocolate, and tea.

Most students were not impressed with the new vending machines at all. Some felt that they were a waste of an investment and could have gone into a better cause. Others who were indifferent about the situation felt that if vending machines were going to be used as a means of providing food, the school

was fine with the few that occupied the first floor of the Academic Building. Those vending machines are able to provide quick snacks that do not need anything but to be consumed. "The vending machines are life savers at times because even without a real meal, I can get some type of snack. I usually go for either trail mix or pretzels and water. Those are probably the healthier items found here", says RCC student Shanetta Williams.

Other students who do not care much for any of the vending machines complain that going off campus for food is costly and timely. People complain that because there is no "real" food on campus, they are forced to go to one of the surrounding restaurants to get something to fulfill their hunger. Derek Bell, a student, stated: "Usually when I'm running late I bring food from home or stop at Dunkin' [Donuts]. The morning isn't too bad but I usually take classes throughout the day and have to rush to Dominos or AK's [pizzeria] to grab a quick bite." Williams feels that the time and money spent to get something to eat is very inconvenient. Another student, Tanisha Harris, complained about the same thing. Her concern was that she pays her money to go to school and that school should be able to provide a place where she can nourish her body while obtaining knowledge throughout her day. She complained that the RCC is not in an area surrounded by many places to eat and yet it does not provide a decent cafeteria. Sometimes, she finds herself traveling to Dudley Square and back to get food, something that is not always a quick task.

Editor's Note: Since this article was written (Summer '11), the vending machines have been replaced by a full-service cafeteria in the Academic Building with plans to restore and rebuild a cafeteria in the Student Center. Please let us know your thoughts on the new cafeteria: jkabalas@rcc.mass.edu



Perception of Incoming Freshman at RCC

By Andrea Farrell
Gazette Staff Reporter

My'lissa C. Hope is 2011 graduate from Walpole High with a 3.5 GPA. She will be attending Roxbury Community College in Fall 2011. A dream school for My'lissa was Bay State College. She was accepted to the school but financial aid only gave her 45% of the tuition. Because this option wasn't affordable for her and her family, RCC was the next step.

RCC gave My'lissa full financial aid, yet she is a little hesitant about attending. Friends that have graduated before her and attended RCC have given her mixed opinions on the school. For the most part, the bad outweighs the good with the perception that RCC is like high school all over again. My'lissa is not eager to attend.

On past visits she hasn't been impressed. The lack of friendliness from other students and running around with financial aid has her thinking if this is the school she wants to attend. Unprofessionalism, mismanagement, expensive books, and non-appetizing are

a few words My'lissa associates with the college. From the vending machine cafe, back and forth with aid, to the impatient attitude of staff, she is not impressed. Leaving Walpole High School and on her way to attending RCC, she feels a lack of community sense in a community college.

My'lissa was looking forward to experiencing college in the way most students would if she were attending Northeastern, Emerson, or Boston University. In her eyes the school is one of the best community colleges around. RCC is in the backyard of her home and can be very affordable, but the problem just might not be the school. The way the students conduct themselves in the hallways speaks for itself: "Ghetto."

College is a place for mature young adults, not for adolescent children. Manners seem to be missing in some of the younger RCC students. Some of the people who attend the school place a bad stereotype and association with RCC. My'lissa's goals seem to be like everyone now; attend class, do what she has to do, don't get wrapped up in the high school drama, and leave as fast as she can.

YOUR
Opinion

DOES
Matter

YES

NO

The Violence within the Community

By Lula Hunter
Gazette Staff Reporter

The violence in Boston Massachusetts is reaching ultimate highs. Every day the news is turned on, breaking news covering stories of a stabbing, shoot out, domestic violence situation, and death around the community. Mothers, fathers, grandparents, etc. are wondering, "What is happening to our community?" This is a fair question. Are there answers?

City officials are trying to figure out what can possibly be the contributing factors to this sudden burst of violence in the community. Even before the beginning of summer there have been multiple counts of shootings and murder around Boston.

Some parents say it's the music on the radio; some say it's the television shows and games promoting the violence that is leading the community into these troubled times. With rappers releasing albums promoting "Beefs" with other artists, this leaves the community thinking, What are we teaching our children? Domestic violence is at an all-time high.

Tolerance is not being taught. Everything is violence, pay back, and retaliation, with gangs and crews emulating rap groups, citizens are getting caught in the cross fire. City officials are coming together with parents and starting after school programs to reach out to youth and hosting workshops at community centers for adults on how to stop the violence. The music might not ever change but hopefully the attitudes will before it's too late.

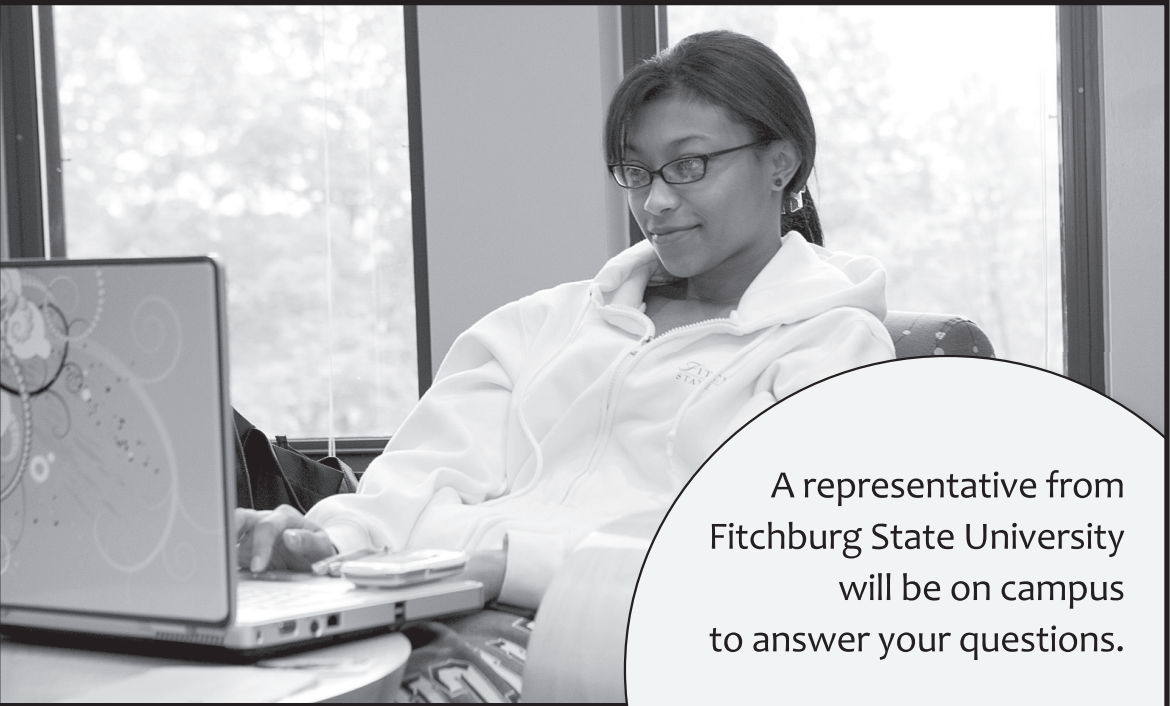
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Change for the Better

By **Octavia Draughn**
Gazette Staff Reporter

Society tends to bash folks for the negativity on their life and usually only projects light on the crime and disasters that occur but rarely gives credibility to those who make a change within themselves and among others.

Dolores Wise is a Mental Health Advocate here in the Boston area. She is employed by a prestigious human resources company that works to better the lives of people in the community. Wise informed me that she became a MHA based on her volunteer and employment history working in “dry” and “wet” shelters. She advocates for people who are homeless, have legal issues, financial problems, mental health issues, and people with addictions. She sincerely expressed that she enjoyed working with the different people she encountered and that she believed in her heart that it was her calling to do this course of work, a true gift.

Where it can be difficult to face the challenges of the diverse cases Wise

takes on, she seems to be a natural. When asked if she could relate to any of the cases she works, she replied: “Yes because I was once in their place, but I overcame those obstacles.” While Wise works hard to succeed in all her cases, she is able to achieve a sense of joy when helping the people she encounters overcome their complications. She is exhilarated that she is able to look back at her past and be able to give her clients the sense of guidance she wishes someone was able to provide her during her weakest points of life.

Although Wise is able to successfully help people overcome their obstacles, there are times when she faces stubborn individuals. She shared a situation when a client did not want her help but was ordered by the courts to receive help from a program. That individual left the program and relapsed. Consequently, he is on the run from the courts. Wise felt that she could have helped him if he gave her the chance. She understood how he may have felt and thought if he gave it a try he could have successfully completed the program.

Wise was asked if there was a case

she was most proud of herself for handling. She stated: “Yes, a consumer had six outstanding warrants, all from different courts. I went with her to all court houses to accompany and advocate for her and each judge granted her another chance. She was able to enter a program instead of going to jail.”

With all that Wise has done to improve the lives of others, she feels that she has accomplished being a productive member of society after overcoming her addiction. She never thought she could “live life on life’s terms.” With her current success, she hopes to improve her future by gaining more resources to help her clients more effectively, go back to school to further her education, and do more outreach for people who are homeless and living with addiction.

Wise has made a remarkable impact on the lives she has helped improve over the years. After overcoming her own problems, she was able to bend down and lend a helping hand to those in need. Society should shed more light on people who help and not only on those who harm!

Felons and Financial Aid

By **Yolanda Cooley**
Gazette Staff Reporter

Convicts should be allowed to receive financial aid after being imprisoned. If employment is a requirement after being incarcerated, then why isn’t education equally as important?

When a convict applies at a higher learning institution, he or she is required to pay out of pocket. This is the law, that they are not able to seek assistance from the state if they have a criminal record. Some would think that if these convicts are leaving the prison system, most do

not have the financial means to seek education. This results in most falling back to criminal behaviors and very little return to become productive citizens of society.

The society I am referring to is one that is supposed to support and assist in the rehabilitation of those who have broken the law. That is what our prisons are designed to do, rehabilitate those that can be rehabilitated. Wouldn’t education be a part of process? This would allow for the convicts to become more competitive in today’s job market, allowing them to support and provide for themselves and their families. Why

should we continue to punish them for their mistakes, by not allowing them to receive educational benefits?

My own mother, who is 70 years old, stated, “The judicial system has pardoned them for their crimes. Why can’t society follow the same example, and support their educational needs by assisting them financially?” If Ms. Iva Cooley can get, why can’t they?

Editor’s Note: What do you think? Should we pay for the education of convicts who have completed their sentences? Let us know your thoughts: jkahalas@rcc.mass.edu

On The Down Low: Review... « continued from page 1

The depth King goes through to inform people, both male and female, about the activities that go on in the DL world are admired. He sheds a light in an area that many are oblivious to. He suggests that women ask men about their sex history in order to know the truth. It is hard to expect someone to openly admit they prefer sleeping with men and women rather than just one.

King proves that the “don’t ask, don’t tell” mentality can be strongly enforced depending on the situation. I like how he described his feelings about being on the down low, how it made him feel in terms of his family, and what went through his mind while performing sexual acts with men. Throughout the book, King was very descriptive. The descriptions were a pro and con because some details were informative while others were a bit hard to digest.

Another aspect of King’s story that was beneficial was how he explained the difference between the terms gay, bisexual, and down low. These explanations help better understand various sexual terms and preferences. I also liked how he shared his activist acts while urging people to protect themselves against STDs. Although he was sometimes reluctant to be the face of the DL lifestyle, the one who put people he cared about in jeopardy, he felt it was the right thing to do.

Cost of Living Increase ... « continued from page 1

that they have witnessed their parents abuse each other because of a disagree-

ment over finances.

Nowadays, people are under a lot of pressure to make ends meet. With a national divorce rate that is higher than ever, many parents have to provide for their families by themselves. It is also becoming harder for families to get the help and support they need.

An even bigger problem is that States are undergoing budget cuts and an increase in taxes. It seems like in this economy no one can get a break. With the built up frustration, people are reacting with violence.

If the government wants to see a decrease in violent crimes, then they have to do something about the economy. The bottom line is when people are financially stable; they can take the time to enjoy life.

A Nightmare Drive ... « continued from page 1

have to compete with other aggressive drivers, dangerous narrow streets filled with potholes, traffic, construction, and worst of all piles of snow.

People all over the city are outraged. They want the problem fixed. Car enthusiast and resident of Roslindale Steve Mavros stated that he had to file an insurance claim for the damage to the rims on his car after driving over a pothole. He claims, “The streets in Boston are horrible. I just recently went on vacation to South Beach Florida, and I shipped my car down there. It was so beautiful- the weather, especially driving on the smooth streets. I did not see a pothole anywhere. I really enjoyed driving down there.”

Jamaica Plain resident Latia Cosme has been in a single motor vehicle accident caused by a pothole. According to Latia, she was driving on South Street during the winter that just passed, when her car drove over a pothole and the front axle on another car broke apart. She stated, “The wheel came off her car and without her control, the car steered into a parked Lexus totaling her car and the other vehicle.” She did not suffer any major injuries due to the accident. However, she lost her car as a result.

Desperate to control the number of potholes, Boston city officials are experimenting with a new application also known as an App for phones such as Smartphones and iPhones named Street Bump that would detect potholes while driving. If the city of Boston expects to clear up their worst driver reputation, then they should first start by cleaning up their reckless streets.

Monthly MBTA Passes ... « continued from page 1

is only designed for low income students. Other schools do not offer this service, and we as students are not in high school anymore. We should be able to be responsible. Especially when our education is funded for us.” Either way, this is a debate that has been around since I started at this college two years ago, and I don’t see it going away or being resolved anytime soon.

Editor’s Note: Please e-mail your thoughts on whether students should get discounted “T” passes to: jkahalas@rcc.mass.edu. We will publish as many responses as space allows.



Saving Our Babies

By **Yolanda Cooley**
Gazette Staff Reporter

Boston Healthy Start is a program that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has created to save the babies that are frequently dying due to economic struggles. Maria Rodriguez, who is a case manager for Dorchester House Multi-Service Center, explained that this five year program came about because black woman have the highest infant mortality rate among all other races in the country.

She works with prenatal woman from the ages of 14-45. She states that she is only allowed to work with African American women. She says, “My research has led me to the conclusions that the reason why the African American babies are dying at such a high rate is because of their economic and educational status. These elements give these mothers the disadvantages of raising a healthy baby to full term.”

Not having the financial means limits most black mothers to visit neighbor-

hood healthcare facilities, each time having a different doctor. Not having the proper medication is a result of these moms not being able to afford proper health care at reputable hospitals.

Their poor education also restricts their knowledge when it comes to taking care of themselves properly. Ms. Rodriguez’s job as a case manager is to reconnect these women with a nutritionist. Her team makes sure that they have a primary care doctor. They follow up on each patient to make sure they are making all of their prenatal appointments.

This is a good program that should be made known to the public on a wider scale. Protecting our children before they are even born is very important to this community. This is why Boston healthy start was created so these women of color can give their infants a healthy start. There program is funded by the Commonwealth, which is a good investment, because ultimately it is an investment in our country’s future.

The Complexity of Motherhood

By **Lula Hunter**
Gazette Staff Reporter

When you think of a job you probably think of the average 9-5. What if you had ten different jobs for which you were on call for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year?

The job I’m talking about is the job of being a mother. A mother plays the role of chef, chauffeur, event coordinator, housekeeper, counselor, bookkeeper, teacher, chaperone, personal shopper, nurse, and the best cheerleader you could ever imagine.

Mothers are strong willed and driven by pure love. The health and well-being of their families is the most important thing to them. They are content to stand quietly in the background as their children shine, but with an ever watchful eye like a lioness watching over her cubs ready to spring into action when she senses danger for her young.

To be a mother is a natural event, but sometimes we don’t think about what that really entails. It can be the best job in the world, but also the hardest. It is a journey through changes that you never imagined, but it builds you up and helps you discover inner strength that you never knew existed inside of you.

Once you have a child it is your responsibility to make sure that child is loved and raised to best of your ability. There are times this is extremely hard, especially during your child’s teenage years of discovery and rebellion. A mother might feel taken for granted or even unappreciated by her children.

Looking back I can remember my mother having one of those moments, and she told me “you will understand when you’re a mother, and you will appreciate me then.” Those words have stuck with me throughout my life, and they ring true as I deal with my own children and their irrational teenage behavior. As an adult I’ve even gone back to my mother and just said thank you, for yesterday, today, and tomorrow, because anyone that has kids knows that it’s not over when they turn eighteen and they become so called adults. Parenthood is a lifetime commitment.

So this is for all Mothers. You are recognized. You are a superwoman and the backbone to the progression of the world. You are appreciated for always putting yourself last while continuously pouring out your love to nurture others. Stand strong and hold your head high because you are truly irreplaceable.



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My Most Memorable Experience

By **Divah Payne**
Gazette Staff Reporter

My most memorable experience at Roxbury Community College was when we students held a Stop Police Brutally Rally in 2010. This meant a lot to me because the police had come to Roxbury Community College following a sixteen year old black male. When they caught up to him just before he entered the building, he was beat down by at least four police officers. He was kneed in the back, kicked, and punched. The building was full of students at the time of the teen’s arrest. Female students were crying and screaming, “Stop!” while the police were kneeling the teen in his side.

The police threatened to arrest anyone who tried to stop them.

A few students recorded the whole incident with their cell phones. This footage became proof of how police use excessive force in the urban community. Maxwell Opara, an RCC student, said that he had “worked at the Reggie Lewis Center where a co-worker told him that an officer stated that they are the biggest gang in the world and they have guns, too.”

The Stop Police Brutality Rally was a success. I also took part as one of the videographers covering the event. Students, staff, and some community residents took part in the rally. In my second interview, Don Carter from RCC said, “It is a violation of a person’s right

when they are approached by the color of their skin or how much money they make or what institution is at the hands of that individual.”

The news spread fast after the video went viral on YouTube. News Channel Seven showed up while about a hundred RCC students and staff took part in the march down to the police headquarters. At Police Headquarters everyone shouted, “Stop police brutality!” A few cops looked on, but none would come out.

This rally held great importance to me because it showed police that we are not going to stand for this kind of behavior and that they can’t just come to our campus and beat an unarmed teenager.



Celebración 2011
Roxbury Community College presents

Hispanic Heritage
at RCC



Featured speaker:
Arthur K. Spears, Ph.D.
“WHAT’S BLACK AND AFRICAN ABOUT SPANISH & ENGLISH IN THE AMERICAS”


With spoken word introduction and talkback by the RCC community
Light lunch to follow

Wednesday, October 26
10:30a.m.
Media Arts Center Mainstage
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For more information please call:
Veronica McCormack at 617-427-0060 x 5127 or
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ROXBURY REPERTORY THEATER
Presents



TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

Roxbury Repertory Theater presents Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* directed by Marshall Hughes. Live music is interwoven into this production compiled by renowned vocalist Ron Murphy, who plays the role of Reverend Sykes. Opening night includes a pre-show reception and a live prologue by RRT's Artistic Director and OBIE Award winner Robbie McCauley, and dance by the award winning OriginNation dance troupe.

10 performances:

- Thursday October 20, 10AM and 8PM
- Friday October 21, 10AM and 8PM
- Saturday October 22, 2PM
- Thursday October 27, 10AM and 8PM
- Friday October 28, 10AM and 8PM
- Saturday October 29 at 2PM

General seating. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors. RCC students free w/valid ID.

Mainstage at Roxbury Community College is wheelchair accessible

Taking Summer Courses is an Advantage

By **Tyler Kimball**
Gazette Staff Reporter

In just five weeks a student can boost their GPA, get ahead, gain a prerequisite credit and gain full credit for a needed course. So what’s the catch? Some students are hesitant to enroll in summer classes primarily because of the misconception that summer students do not have the same opportunities as do students in the fall and spring semesters. “They have too much work, and not enough time to do it. I’d rather just take it (World History 1) in the fall,” says Sabrina Padro, a full-time student at Roxbury Community College. Aside from the extracurricular activities such as sports, there is no downfall to summer classes. Some may disagree, and summer courses may not be for everyone, but if you’re like myself and like the idea of class for just a short five weeks to gain full credit, then it’s something you may want to look into.

Summer classes run in two sessions, each a total of five weeks, depending on the class, scheduled class times and days. On average most classes meet three times a week at the student’s selected time for about two and a half hours. Now it may seem like a long class because instructors try to condense a full semester into a summer session. Some

may view it as overwhelming, an overload of information, but I find it to be an even pace that’s easy to keep up with. In my class, World History I, we cover 2 chapters a week and one test every Thursday. With two and a half hours of open discussion, lecture, and questioning, it is virtually impossible to not be able to obtain the entire curriculum.

Summer classes accommodate many students’ needs. I enrolled in summer classes to lighten my class workload in the fall during basketball season. With evening classes I can work during the day and attend class three times a week right after school for the same credit as I would for taking a full semester. If you attend a four year school then the advantages are endless.

Taking summer classes at local schools like Roxbury Community College can enable you to earn transferable credits. “I’m taking a nutrition class three times a week, and now I won’t need to take it at my four year,” says Jesika Holmes, St. Peters transfer student. The cost of Community College credits is far below that of a four year institution and with the FASEA, financial aid is available just like for full-time students. You can possibly take summer classes for free! Summer classes are also beneficial to those students who need prerequisites or developmental classes. Rather than com-

mitting to an entire semester of a class you might hold little interest in, it makes sense to take it during the summer.

Summer students may have an advantage in class size. With smaller classes and less distractions, the professor has an opportunity to get more involved. With fewer students, you can ask more questions and have a more interactive learning experience rather than just lecture. The professor can learn about your habits and learning preferences and be able to apply them personally to you, whereas in a Fall or Spring semester, the classes are more strict and adhere to schedule.”

I encourage kids to take summer courses,” Roxbury Women’s Basketball head coach Mark Leszyck, “I have a lot of student athletes who thrive in summer classes. They get more attention, less room to slack off, and when the season comes they have less of a work load.”

Summer classes are short scheduled, hands on, effective and beneficial. If you’re crunched for time, attempting to work and save money, missing a course, desire academic enrichment and advancement, or a boost in your GPA, I suggest enrolling in the second summer session.



Images: crimerealm.wordpress.com

Nursing Home Horrors

By **Natasha Banks**
Gazette Staff Reporter

Many families turn to assisted living or nursing homes when they cannot provide the adequate care that their elderly loved ones require. At that time, many families seek out facilities that can provide the appropriate care to their loved ones. What many of these families do not know is that their loved ones’ lives are being endangered by trusted healthcare professionals. Inside these nursing homes, elderly patients suffer from physical, mental and, as absurd as it sounds, sexual abuse. They are neglected by licensed professionals that do not comply with the standards of care.

It’s shocking to know that this is taking place in nursing homes all over the country. According to Elder Abuse Daily, California has the highest reported cases of elderly abuse, followed by Florida, New York, Texas, and Pennsylvania. According to Elder Abuse Daily, there are nearly 6 million cases of elderly abuse reported a year. It is also occurring in nursing homes within the state.

It is 9am at a nursing home in Brookline, MA, and one of the residents is in the hallway in a wheelchair waiting

to use the restroom. Her screams can be heard from down the hall by the nursing staff that is happily engaging in conversation in their native language, neglecting their work obligations. After about 30 minutes, the patient is brought to the bathroom.

Shortly after that, an argument between two residents erupts. One of the residents struck the other, while a nursing staff watches. After they go back and forth a couple of times, the staff finally intervenes. Another resident complains that her clothing items were stolen while a staff member mocks her.

Frequently, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts health officials are called to visit this nursing home in Brookline. The state investigated numerous reports of the staff abusing the residents. Just recently, they investigated a report that one of the staff at the nursing home struck one of the residents in the face.

An activities director at the nursing home who wishes to keep her identity private has stated that she “has to get out of this place, it’s horrible here. The other staff don’t do their job.” She also plans on leaving the company in two weeks.

If we don’t take the time to address this issue, then number of abuse cases will only increase. The first step is to recognize the signs of abuse in order to protect our loved ones who suffer from the consequences.

Editor’s Note: Please share your experiences working in a nursing home. We will try to publish as many responses as space allows.

Says Who?

By **Octavia Draughn**
Gazette Staff Reporter

Should the political system be allowed to gamble with personal affairs when it comes to providing a life for a life they will not provide for?

Republicans have made a majority statement that they are strictly “pro-life.” In other words, Republicans disagree with the act of aborting a woman’s fertilized egg, no matter the reason. Is it fair to force a woman to carry a child when she was conceived due to a rape? No. A woman should not be required to carry what may be a painful burden for her for nine months. Sheila Giles, a woman in her twenties, agrees. “I disagree that a woman should have to carry a child that she had not consensually conceived, especially in the matters of a rape. I know the experience and I refuse to feel guilty about my decision.”

Even if a woman did not conceive her child as a result of a rape, is it right to mandate that an abortion is out of the question? People make their decisions based on their lifestyle. If some-

one chooses to abort their child, it is their decision to make, not anyone else’s. There are billions of people in the world and no one person or group of people knows or understands what every single person in society has going on in their life. Many people may say that a person does not need to abort a child just because they have difficulties in their life.

However, someone can ask those same people if they are aware of the number of children in foster homes, shelters, and homeless; children who do not have families and many who ever will. If a mother or family decides to abort their fetus, it could be that they cannot handle the fact that they are going to have a child and leave that child for society to raise.

Before anyone can really discriminate against those who make this decision, they should consider if they are willing to take in any of the thousands of children that are alive without homes. How can people be so concerned about a life that has not yet been created in this world when there are so many who have life and continue to be without? A woman should not be criticized for the decision that she makes because for what it’s worth, it was a decision that fit into her life at that time. Instead of people downgrading others for their decisions, they should be more willing to comfort each other in a time like that because not every decision is easy to live with. But as the saying goes: “you have to do what you have to do.”